

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-19. Cancelled.

20. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic device for the spine, comprising:
a plate assembly having an adjustable length and defining integral means
for coupling the plate assembly on vertebral bone;
at least one bone fastener for coupling the plate assembly to vertebral
bone using the integral means for coupling the plate assembly;
means for adjusting the length of the plate assembly;
means for locking the length of the plate assembly. ~~The device of claim~~
49, wherein the means for locking the length of the plate assembly comprises a
threaded bore and a set screw passing between the means for adjusting the length of
the plate assembly and into the threaded bore; and
means for inserting the at least one bone fastener into the vertebral bone
polyaxially at any of a plurality of selectable angles of relative to the plate assembly

21. (Currently amended) The device of claim 20 49, further comprising:
means for locking the bone fastener at a selectable angle relative to the
plate assembly.

22. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the means for locking the bone fastener include at least one through-hole in the plate assembly and a coupling element insertable into the at least one through-hole and rotationally coupling a head of the bone fastener.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended). The device of claim ~~23~~ 25, further comprising a coupling element insertable into the at least one through-hole and rotationally coupling a head of the bone fastener.

25. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic device for the spine comprising:
a first longitudinal plate having an end defined by at least two longitudinal
prongs;
a second longitudinal plate having a longitudinal bore, the longitudinal
bore adapted to receive the prongs for longitudinal translation therein through a plurality
of positions;
a lock assembly for locking the prongs within the bore at one of the
plurality of positions. ~~The device of claim 23,~~ wherein the lock assembly comprises a
threaded bore and a set screw passing between the prongs and into the threaded bore;
at least one through-hole in at least one of the first and second plates; and
at least one bone fastener for coupling the plate assembly to vertebral
bone through the at least one through-hole at any of a plurality of variable angles
relative to the plate assembly.